

1 **ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

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3 A system, method, and apparatus for annotating an electronic document independently  
4 of its content is provided. According to one variation, a tablet and stylus-based computer is  
5 programmed with a document browser that permits a user to annotate documents viewed  
6 through the browser. The annotations are stored separately from the viewed document pages  
7 but are correlated with the pages such that when a previously annotated page is revisited,  
8 annotations relating to that page are retrieved and displayed on top of the page as an "ink"  
9 layer. Three different annotation modes are possible: ink, highlight, and erase. Each mode  
10 can be selected through a user interface supplied through the browser or through controls  
11 embedded in a document.

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